

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 21, cancel claims 23-31 and 35, and add claims 36-40 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information with multiple fields from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity wherein said multiple fields in each subscribers' profile are similar, wherein the subscriber's preferred meeting times are considered as criteria in grouping said subscribers into said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

2. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of registering profile information further comprises the steps of:

entering biographical information of said subscriber.

3. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of registering profile information further comprises the steps of:

entering personal preferences of said subscriber.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarities between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscribers' profile information wherein all of the subscribers' profiles in said group are similar to each other;

utilizing an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscriber's profile information, wherein preferences are assigned integer values concatenated to form a lookup key, and used to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two preferences; and

summing similarity values for all profile preferences to create a final similarity total for said subscribers; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers;

5. (Original) The method stated in claim 4, wherein said step of utilizing an algorithm further comprises the steps of:

requiring that the similarity values between subscribers exceeds a threshold value.

6. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

grouping said groups into composite groups based on similarities between said group's profile information.

7. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of grouping said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

utilizing said subscriber's own matching criteria for establishing an acceptable level of similarities between said subscribers and said fellow subscribers for forming said group.

8. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said groups of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

selecting meeting times for said group; and

notifying said subscribers in said group of said meeting times.

9. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting group messages for said groups.

10. (Original) The method stated in claim 1, wherein said step of displaying said group of said subscribers further comprises the steps of:

posting real-time dialog between said subscribers of said group.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information, including biographical information on personal preferences, of said subscriber into said database;

entering a group selection criteria that identified characteristics and interests which subscribers must have to be included in a candidate group;

creating a candidate list of subscribers based on the group selection criteria;
grouping said subscribers from said candidate list with at least two fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarities between said subscriber's profile information and said fellow subscribers' profile information wherein all of the subscribers' profiles in said group are similar to each other;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers by applying an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and said fellow subscribers, wherein preference disclosed in said subscriber's profile information are assigned integer values concatenated to form a lookup key, and used to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between the two preferences;

summing similarity values for all profile preferences to create a final similarity total for said subscribers;

providing capability whereby said subscriber selects final group members from the candidate list; and

displaying said group of said subscribers.

21. (Currently Amended) The method stated in claim [[21]] 20, wherein the size of the group can be specified for grouping of said subscribers into said group.

22. (Original) The method stated in claim 21, wherein the subscribers preferred meeting times are considered as criteria in grouping said subscribers into said group.

23-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity totals between all subscribers in said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group wherein multiple fields in each subscribers' profile are similar; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, comprising the steps of:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information from fellow subscribers;

registering and storing profile information of said subscriber into said database;

using an algorithm to determine a level of similarity between said subscriber and other subscribers' profile information, wherein profile fields are assigned values and used to create a lookup key to access an entry in a table containing the corresponding similarity value between two fields;

summing similarity values for said subscriber and other subscribers to create final similarity totals between subscribers;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group of a specified size wherein multiple fields in each subscribers' profile are similar; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information including both characteristic and preference data;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity between subscribers in said group;

utilizing an algorithm whereby a group is formed when the characteristics of each subscriber in said group are compared to and reflect the preferences of every other subscriber in said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

37. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information including both characteristic and preference data;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity between subscribers in said group;

utilizing an algorithm that selects all subscribers for inclusion in the group whereby a group is formed when the characteristics of each subscriber in said group are compared to and reflect the preferences of every other subscriber in said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

38. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information including both characteristic and preference data;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity of group-specific and individual preferences included in each subscriber's profile;

utilizing an algorithm that selects all subscribers for inclusion in each group whereby a group is formed when the characteristics of each subscriber in said group are compared to and reflect the preferences of every other subscriber in said group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

39. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information including both characteristic and preference data;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

grouping said subscriber with at least two of said fellow subscribers to form at least one group based on similarity of group-specific and individual preferences included in each subscriber's profile; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.

40. (New) A method for grouping subscribers by common preferences, the steps comprising:

providing a subscriber access to a computerized database having stored profile information including both characteristic and preference data;

registering and storing profile information from said subscriber into said database;

entering group selection criteria that identifies profile information which subscribers must have to be included in a candidate group

creating a candidate list of subscribers based on the group selection criteria;

grouping said subscribers from said candidate list with at least two fellow subscribers to form at least one candidate group based on similarity between subscribers in said group;

utilizing an algorithm that selects all subscribers for inclusion in each candidate group whereby a group is formed when the characteristics of each subscriber in said group are compared to and reflect the preferences of every other subscriber in said group;

providing means whereby subscriber selects final subscribers from the candidate group; and

communicating said subscribers of said group to said subscribers.